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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. E. B. COPELAND, instructor in bionomics, at Stanford University, has been appointed chief botanist of the United States Philippine Commission. A. D. E. Elmer, assistant in systematic botany, has been appointed assistant field collector on the same commission.

THE British Rainfall Organization founded in 1860 by the late G. J. Symons, will henceforth be carried on under the sole charge of Dr. H. R. Mill, as Mr. Sowerby Wallis has been compelled by ill health to retire after more than thirty years connection with the association.

JAMAICA has abandoned its weather service and Mr. Maxwell Hall, government meteorologist, has resigned the position which he has held since 1880. The compilation of the weather reports will hereafter be undertaken by the Chemists' Department.

THE Hanbury Gold Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of London has this year been awarded to M. Eugène Collin.

GEORGE BENJAMIN WHITE (Ph.D. Yale) has been appointed assistant in the Department of Bacteriology, of the Hoagland Laboratory in Brooklyn.

DR. FRANK RUSSELL has resigned the instructorship of anthropology at Harvard University, which he has held since 1897. Owing to his health, he will live on a ranch in Arizona.

PROFESSOR S. J. BARNETT, of the Department of Physics of Stanford University, has returned from Alaska, where he had charge of a party, sent out by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

GOVERNOR LA FOLLETTE, of Wisconsin, has appointed a commission, consisting of Dr. Gustav Schmitt, Milwaukee, Professor H. L. Russell, bacteriologist at the State University, Madison, and Dr. M. R. Merrill, whose duty it is to determine the advisability of the establishment of a state hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis.

SECRETARY WILSON, of the Department of Agriculture, gave this week an address before

the Irrigation Congress, meeting at Ogden, Utah.

PRESIDENT A. T. HADLEY, of Yale University, was a passenger on the steamer *Prinzess Irene* which arrived at New York last week from Mediterranean ports.

ANTON J. CARLSON, Ph.D., of Stanford University, who was appointed research assistant by the Carnegie Institution last year, is now at San Diego doing research work in the temporary laboratory of the University of California. The subject of his investigations is 'the mechanism of the inhibition of the heart in invertebrates.'

DURING the past year Mr. T. W. Vaughan, of the United States Geological Survey, has devoted most of his time to a study of the later Tertiary corals of the United States and the West Indies. The manuscript of his monograph is far advanced and illustrations for sixty or seventy plates have been prepared.

CAPTAIN LEFANT, of the French army, is about to explore the Niger Basin, under the auspices of the Paris Geographical Society and the French Colonial Office.

A BUST in honor of the late Mr. W. Martindale will be unveiled at the London School of Pharmacy on October 1, when Dr. J. W. Swan, F.R.S., will make an address in connection with the opening of a new section of the school.

THERE has been unveiled at Langres, France, a monument in honor of the chemist, Laurent.

THE deaths are announced of Dr. Eugen Askenasy, honorary professor of botany in the University of Heidelberg, at the age of fifty-eight years, of Dr. J. Lange, the mathematician, director of a Berlin Realgymnasium, at the age of fifty-seven years, and of Ernst Krause, who wrote on popular natural history under the name Carus Sterne, at the age of sixty-four years.

MR. W. W. ASTOR has contributed \$100,000 to the British Cancer Research Fund.

At the instance of Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the New York Botanical Garden,

the buildings at Cinchona relinquished by the government of Jamaica have been rented for a tropical botanical laboratory.

THE daily papers state that large crowds are visiting the American Museum of Natural History, New York, to see the specimen of radium there on exhibition, which was presented by Mr. Edward D. Adams.

THE Chemical Laboratory of the University Modena, including a scientific library containing 15,000 works, has been destroyed by fire.

THE Farmers' National Congress will hold its twenty-third annual session at Niagara Falls, beginning on September 22. Among the general addresses of scientific interest on the program are: 'Infectious and Contagious Diseases of Farm Animals and their effect on American Agriculture,' Dr. D. E. Salmon, Washington, D. C.; 'Insect Pests of Plants and their effect on American Agriculture,' Professor F. M. Webster, Urbana, Ill.

THE *British Journal of Education* states that the council of the Royal Geographical Society has at the request of the London School Board and the Oxford and Cambridge School Examinations Board drawn up syllabuses as guides to instruction in geography in elementary and in secondary schools. The elementary suggestions were drafted by the late Mr. T. G. Rooper, H.M.I.S., and, after his death, they were revised by Mr. G. G. Chisholm, M.A., B.Sc. The secondary were drafted by Mr. H. J. Mackinder.

THE British Government has appointed a commission to inquire into the alleged physical deterioration of the lower classes, with Mr. Almeric W. Fitzroy, clerk of the privy council, as chairman.

THE daily papers state that the legacy of M. de Pierrecourt, who left his money to the city of Rouen for the purpose of founding a family of giants, with a view to the physical regeneration of the human race, has been before the Council of State in Paris. An arrangement has been arrived at by which the city of Rouen undertakes to apply a sum of 800,000f. out of the testator's estate to the

foundation of a useful institution, and to pay over the rest of the estate to M. de Pierrecourt's heirs.

CASES of illness including four deaths have occurred at Marseilles which are attributed to the plague, while in northern Mexico there is an outbreak of yellow fever, which is now being investigated by the Health Department of Texas.

THE U. S. Geological Survey has established seven new river stations and renewed four of the five old stations in North Dakota, so that eleven stations are now in operation in this state. The stations in the eastern part of the state have been established to determine the amount of water power available and for other general purposes. In the western part of the state, which is semi-arid, the stations have been established to determine the amount of water available for irrigation. This region has no large rivers except the Missouri, which has only a small fall, not so great as most irrigation canals. It is not probable, therefore, that this stream can be used for irrigation purposes until a later time, when the land shall have become more valuable. A thorough examination is being made of all the streams and the lands in North Dakota west of the Missouri River with a view to irrigation projects. If any project appears to be favorable, detailed surveys and estimates may be made, and, if the project is then found feasible, it will be recommended for construction. An examination is also being made of the cheap and abundant lignite resources of the state in the hope that lignite can be utilized for fuel in pumping water for irrigation in certain localities, where long canals would be impracticable.

THE London correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* calls attention to the statistics of the birth rate in Australia, recently collected by Mr. Coglan. The fall in the birth rate in Australia and New Zealand taken together is such that there are annually fewer births by nearly 20,000 than would have occurred if the rates prevailing as late as ten years ago had been maintained. New South Wales furnishes a stri-

king example. In 1887 there were in this state 112,247 married women under the age of 45; in 1901 there were 149,247, yet the number of children born was about the same in each year. The legitimate birth rate per 10,000 married women under the age of 45 is 239; in 1891 it was 276. A curious fact is that the decline occurs in every class, among people of every shade of opinion, except among women of Irish birth, who exhibit no decline. But as the proportion of women of Irish birth is fast decreasing that element in maintenance of the birth rate will soon disappear. Large as is the area of the Australian continent Mr. Coghlan thinks it is impossible that its people will become truly great under the conditions affecting the increase of population which now exist. Immigration has practically ceased to be an important factor, the maintenance and increase of the population depending on the birth rate alone—a rate seriously diminished and still diminishing.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PROFESSOR F. D. TUCKER, principal of the school of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, has been elected and has entered upon his duties as president of Memorial University, Mason City, Ia. This institution was founded about two years ago as a memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic. One building, the College of Arts, costing \$100,000, has already been erected and will be occupied during the coming year.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Reading, has received towards the cost of the new buildings £10,000 from Lady Wantage, widow of Lord Wantage, who was president of the college from 1896 to 1901; £10,000 from Mr. W. G. Palmer, M.P.; and a third £10,000 from three other contributors.

THE Leeds Corporation technical instruction sub-committee, with the approval of the finance committee, has decided in the event of a charter being granted to the Yorkshire College, to give £4,000 a year towards the University funds, in addition to the

£1,550 granted from the residue of the local taxation.

DR. BURTON D. MYERS, assistant in anatomy at the Johns Hopkins University, has an appointment as instructor in anatomy in the Indiana State University.

DR. C. H. GORDON, until recently superintendent of schools at Lincoln, Nebr., and instructor in geology and geography in the University of Nebraska, has been appointed acting-professor of geology in the University of Washington to take charge of the work of Professor Henry Landes, who has been granted a year's leave of absence for study in the University of Chicago.

THE following is a list of appointments in the scientific departments of the University of Maine for the coming year: H. S. Boardman, B.C.E. and C.E., University of Maine, professor of civil engineering; W. N. Spring, B.A. and M.F., Yale, professor of forestry; W. D. Hurd, B.S., Michigan Agricultural College, professor of agriculture; A. W. Cole, B.S., Worcester Polytechnic Institute, instructor in shop-work; H. P. Hamlin, B.C.E., University of Maine, instructor in civil engineering; G. T. Davis, B.A., and J. B. Reed, B.A., of the University of Michigan, instructors in chemistry; E. H. Bowen, A.B., Colgate, tutor in physics; P. D. Simpson, B.S., University of Maine, tutor in civil engineering; R. M. Connor, B.S., University of Maine, tutor in mathematics; Edith M. Patch, A.B., University of Minnesota, entomologist in the experiment station; S. C. Dinsmore, B.S., University of Maine, assistant chemist in the experiment station.

PROFESSOR AUTHENRIETH, of Freiburg, has been called to a professorship of chemistry in the University of Greifswald; Dr. Krigarmenzel, docent in physics in the University of Berlin, has been appointed acting professor in the Technical Institute at Charlottenberg; Dr. Armin Tschermak, docent in physiology and assistant in the Physiological Institute of the University of Halle, has been promoted to a professorship, and Dr. Wilhelm Küster has been appointed professor of chemistry in the Veterinary School at Stuttgart.